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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Advisory Team on Development Planning, Programming and Implementation (Phase II)
(SYR/79/001)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	March 1979
Starting date of project activities:	March 1979
Planned completion date:	December 1980
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	State Planning Commission
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 411 400
Source of UNDP financing	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

1. Background

1. Comprehensive planning plays a paramount role in the economic and social development of the Syrian Arab Republic. Between 1960 and 1975 three five-year national plans were prepared and implemented and the fourth one, covering the period 1976-1980, is being implemented. At the same time, an elaborate planning system has been developed, starting from the State Planning Commission at the central level and extending to the sectoral ministries and public development agencies as well as to the governorates and to public sector enterprises. In developing this system, the Government received assistance from UNDP, which from

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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1966 to 1976 contributed to the establishment and operation of the Planning Institute for Economic and Social Development (SYR/71/549)1/ and, from 1977 to 1978, provided the services of an advisory team of experts on planning and implementation (SYR/76/012)2/. The present project constitutes Phase II of the latter project.

2. With the on-going extensive preparations of the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1981-1985) and of a long-term development strategy for the period 1980-2000, the State Planning Commission has been entrusted with additional responsibilities. These include: (a) a comprehensive survey of development possibilities at the sectoral and regional levels; (b) integrated budgeting of all available resources; and (c) detailed planning for strategic development sectors. To help to carry out these responsibilities, the Government has requested further assistance from UNDP, which has been approved under the present Phase II project.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objective of the project is to: (a) assist in the formulation of the Fifth Five-Year Plan and the long-term development strategy of the Syrian economy through the adoption and application of advanced planning and programming techniques; (b) assist in the establishment of a monitoring, review and implementation system; (c) provide practical on-the-job training and fellowships; and (d) provide technical support and backstopping to the Planning Institute for Economic and Social Development. In order to achieve the immediate objectives of the project, the experts will, among other things, have direct participation in the formulation of the forthcoming Fifth Five-Year Plan including the preparation of relevant documentation, formats and tables for translation of proposed techniques and methods to be followed in over-all planning, sectoral programming and implementation, as well as the training of counterpart personnel in their application and utilization.

III. Inputs

4. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for : the services of experts and consultants in regional and sectoral planning, programming and evaluation; fellowships in development planning and project preparation; some specialized administrative support and some equipment.

1/ DP/16/Add. 15.
2/ DP/PROJECTS/1759.

5. The Government will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	1 190 400
Training	186 000
Equipment	30 000
Miscellaneous	5 000
	1 411 400

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $846,200 in kind.